

## GAMES PLAYED IN ALBANY.

WHO ARE THE MEN MAYOR HAVE MEYER IS AFTER?

Drops from the Sun—An Old Stage at the University—Long Winter Evening Diversions—How they Kill Time in the Cars.

Correspondence of The Sun.

ALBANY, Feb. 22.—When Mr. Havemeyer said that the Republican party of this State was led by a coterie who gamble all night and cheat each other, did he mean poker? This comment is too much for me, and I am not sure that Mr. Havemeyer knows what poker is. I recommend it to him, however, as a fascinating, intellectual entertainment, requiring the high moral qualities of honesty and cheek to be played successfully. Cheating is also possible in it; but, gentlemen, such as the leading Republican politicians are, never cheat.

Poker at Albany has declined very much from what it was in those flush times of the Democracy when Tweed, Harry Genet, Tom Creaner, Peter B. Sweeny, and Dick Connolly risked large sums on a single hand, and won or lost with philosophic composure. In all that set Genet was the most expert player. Many a game has been broken up by the rash style in which he raised the bet and bet hundreds frequently in a broken hand, driving the timid players off when they could not afford to lay them if they had been playing enough to call him.

THE THOUSAND-DOLLAR FELLOWS.

James O'Brien, Ben Wood, and Jones, who made a fortune out of the city's stationer to the corporation, were the only fellows who were even mentioned.

No man ever won or lost with more apparent indifference than Ben Wood. I have seen him ramble with Jake Sharpe at night, when a whole crew of gamblers, their wives, and children, and a locker on would observe no more motion in the face of either of the two players than in the face of a dead man. A moment's rest may require to be told that a natural violet of one's countenance is as safe and a love card or a ten spot deal the first moment.

Gamblering is the chief amusement of the Americans from the Rooster-star, playmaker with great coolness and first-class judgment. He rarely loses his money, and when he does, it is by holding a better hand, but not by doubling the bets.

The average game at the Delavan and the Bowery is the private room of members of the Legislature is quiet and dull, the ante being fixed at fifty cents, and the betting

BARELY RISING BEYOND FIVE DOLLARS.

Willard Johnson, of Oswego; Charlie Corral, from Utica; and the like, are the principal dandies. T. J. Murphy, of Brooklyn, and Denny Burns are steady players, spending their time in the public rooms, and are a credit to the city.

They win and lose moderate sums, and get apparently much fun out of the game as if the sets were not so high. They are not, however, so poor, the betting times to a five dollar ante, and the amount of money to be won is not less than the ante itself.

Important requirements to success at poker are steady nerves and the command of your courage, and the ability to win on a worthless hand by means of courage and determination. A heavy bet creates an impression that the player has a strong hand, and when he wins, the bet is doubled, and will often render what he has at stake, when he has the daring to demand a settlement.

WHY O'BRIEN IS EXCLUDED.

But the main duty of the name is varied when the gentlemen of the New York Custom House appear upon the scene. Times become exciting. Finally, Nelly, the Hon. George Bliss, Brad Shook, the Hon. John J. Davenport, Jake Patterson, Attorney-General Bartow, the Hon. Dr. C. L. Smith, the Hon. W. H. Seward, and the Hon. Hugh J. Hastings play the game of poker with a certain earnestness, the betting times to a six dollar ante, and the amount of money to be won is not less than the ante itself.

They have ruled out Senator O'Brien because he is known to be a cool hand, and when flushed with money bets with too much impetuosity, and always carries his cards. Timmy plays now with Jake Sharpe and that crowd.

The Hon. Thomas Murphy plays a strong, stiff, hearty kind of game, not as if he cared much for the money, but as if he loved the sport so extremely. He always sits low down, and when he wins, he is always on the square, paying in the spot like a hero. George Bliss plays cards with a certain earnestness, and is a candidate for Governor of the State. Some say he is a good player. These are all eminent members of the Republican party, but they are not the Mayor's men; for the Mayor is a gambler, and the public opinion of the city is that he is a good player, but not a good card player. His card playing is not so good as that of the Mayor, and the public opinion of the city is that he is a good player, but not a good card player.

THE WAITING KING.

He is generally successful, Davenport is a cool player, and never fears to face the music. Hugh Hastings loves to win, and is a cool player, but he is not so good as the others. He is a gambler, and conceals a many avante-garde nature. Shook is bold and determined at the card-table, and when in luck becomes a dashingly devilish player, and goes at poker very much as he went at the enemy during the war, as if he were about to break through the ranks of the foe to his own safety. He is never uncommon, but Hugh Hastings is too much for him, and often wins in the end. Shook is a good player, but he is not a good player, and he is always on the square, paying in the spot like a hero. George Bliss plays cards with a certain earnestness, and is a candidate for Governor of the State. Some say he is a good player.

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THE MAN'S KIDS.

Another kid, that of Jake Sharpe, James Blinn, and Benjamin Roche, Senator O'Brien takes a hand with this crowd, and the mischievous boys play poker who come up from New York. The public opinion of the city is that they are not the Mayor's men; for the Mayor is a gambler, and the public opinion of the city is that he is a good player, but not a good card player.

HARRY CHASE, the young man, and the like, are a crowd, and the public opinion of the city is that they are not the Mayor's men; for the Mayor is a gambler, and the public opinion of the city is that he is a good player, but not a good card player.

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